

# NEWS RELEASE

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

### Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

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## DOC Annual Report cites progress in meeting dual mission of public safety and second chances

**Dover, DE** – Commissioner Claire DeMatteis today released the Department of Correction (DOC) Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report, which provides an overview of DOC operations and initiatives and calls attention to key investments it is making to advance Governor Carney’s effort to support reentry and reduce Delaware’s recidivism rate through Executive Order 27.

Read the Department of Correction Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report [online HERE](#).

“The Delaware Department of Correction has made steady, significant progress in each one of our seven areas of focus and we look forward to achieving even more in the current year to advance our dual mission of public safety and rehabilitating offenders,” **Commissioner Claire DeMatteis said.**

Under the leadership of Commissioner DeMatteis the DOC’s seven areas of focus are:

- Strengthening safety and security;
- Boosting officer recruitment and retention;
- Modernizing operations and intelligence-sharing;
- Restructuring prison-based substance abuse, mental health and medical care;
- Making sure Probation and Parole Officers have the training, equipment and support they need to perform difficult, often dangerous jobs;
- Offering additional programming and services for inmates, and
- Implementing the most comprehensive, coordinated reentry plan ever undertaken for offenders returning to our communities to help them stop the cycle of returning to crime

Initiatives and key investments highlighted in the Annual Report include:

- Ongoing progress improving security through installation of cameras in prisons, rollout of Medication Assisted Treatment statewide, expanded use of offender assessments to support rehabilitation and reentry, establishment of the Office of Planning, Research and Reentry, and new training to improve staff wellness and resiliency (see Goals and Accomplishments section on pages 3-6);
- Continued progress filling officer vacancies (see page 11);
- Innovative prison-based cognitive behavioral therapy programs to help inmates reform their criminogenic thinking patterns and behaviors (see page 25);

- A new approach employed by Probation Officers called EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) to help probationers learn behavior change strategies (see page 35);
- Efforts to better supervise the 33% of inmates who are diagnosed with mental illness (see page 39); and
- Launch of the Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission to help coordinate the state's most comprehensive reentry plan ever established across six state agencies (see page 16)

This publication is released **amid a sustained decrease in the offender population since 2013**, including a:

- 25% decrease in Delaware's Level V prison population (see page 17);
- 38% decrease in population in Level IV community corrections centers (see page 26), and
- 7% decrease in the probationer population (see page 30)

The DOC Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report also provides additional information of interest to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public, including infographics on the DOC workforce, offender demographics and populations trends across levels of supervision and DOC facilities, and Departmental expenditure data.

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